

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for discussing this case and the current amendments on July 11, 2007. In light of those discussions, the Applicant has not added new claims but has amended the current independent claims.

1. Rejections Based on Form

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 21 to depend from claim 20 rather than claim 18. By this amendment, it is believed that there is sufficient antecedent basis for "the second identification number".

2. Rejections Based on the Prior Art

Claims 1-11, 17-24, and 26-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Haller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,079,990). Claims 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haller et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 5 and to note that the "numeric value" is a compressed representation of the data of the file (e.g., a CRC code) and to add the limitation that the:

processing device executes a stored program to compare files of the plurality of files with respect to numeric values and names, and when two files with the same name have different numeric values, notifying a user to reconcile the conflicting file names.

This feature is described with respect to Fig. 7 of the present application in which different graphic model files having the same name are identified as identical by their identical CRCs to invoke a procedure in which filenames are reconciled (typically by appending a number to the file name such as "arm_1").

Haller describes at col. 10, lines 49-53, the storing of a configuration object and model object in a process that considers whether the configuration object and model object have been used in an assembly more than once. If so, the configuration object and model object are stored only once, thus conserving memory usage. Identification of the reuse of a configuration object or model object, however, unlike the present invention, appears to be according to names of the objects only, and thus objects with the same name are assumed to be redundant even if they are in fact different.

The present invention avoids the problem of Haller, by looking at a compressed representation of the actual data of the models. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, this compressed representation is a CRC code. The present invention is therefore able to detect when files with the same name are in fact different to prevent a failure to store unique models that might occur with Haller's system. This is described in the present application for example at paragraph [0049]-[0050].

As such, claims 1-4, and 7-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 25, which was indicated as being allowed by the Examiner, however the list of data elements has been cast in the alternative so as to prevent a simple avoidance of this claim by leaving out a single graphical data type.

As such, claims 18-22 and 26-30 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 5, 6, 23-25, and 31-32 have been canceled.

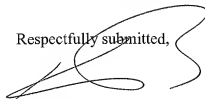
3. Conclusion

It is submitted that claims 1-4, 7-22, and 26-30 define patentable subject matter.
A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Keith M. Baxter", written over the typed name.

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